

Critical Thinking

Thomas Jefferson was President from 1801 to 1809. Before he was elected President, he wrote the Declaration of Independence. As President, Jefferson believed the state governments should be strong. He believed the federal government should have little to do with what happened in each state. Therefore, Jefferson cut many federal taxes. He stopped spending federal money on the states. He fought new ideas that would take away state powers.

Franklin D. Roosevelt was President from 1933 to 1945. He took office during the Great Depression. Many people had lost their homes and jobs. Roosevelt helped people by making the federal government stronger. New federal taxes were passed. The money from these taxes went to help those too old or too sick to work. The federal government spent millions of dollars making jobs for people. Some people thought Roosevelt took away too many powers from the state governments. However, Roosevelt was elected four times, more than any other President.

A. Use the article above to answer the questions. Use a separate sheet of paper if you need more room.

1. Which President worked to make state governments strong? Why? _____

2. Which President worked to make the federal government strong? Why? _____

3. Under which President would you have paid more federal taxes? Why? _____

4. Which of these Presidents could be called a Federalist? _____

B. Roosevelt started the Social Security program. This program gives money to people who are over 65 years of age or too sick to work. Some people believe this program uses up too much federal money. They want it cut. Do you think the Social Security program should be cut? Why or why not? Write your answer on a separate sheet of paper.